



Arcadia

Council Meeting Minutes

Location: Gagetown Recreation Centre, Gagetown

Date: Tuesday, February 17, 2026 – Regular Meeting of Council

Time: 7:00 pm

1) Call to Order

Mayor Sharpe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. In attendance were Mayor Sharpe, Deputy Mayor Sharpe, Councillor Thomson, Councillor Gordon, Councillor Black, Councillor Mennier, Councillor Gahan-MaGee, CAO Bedford and Clerk McGarity.

Mayor Sharpe welcomed everyone to the meeting and read Arcadia's Vision and Mission statements:

- Vision Statement: *"A united community where rural lifestyle, harmony with nature, and a relaxed pace of life thrive, creating a foundation for sustainable growth, unity, and well-being for all".*
- Mission Statement: *"To foster a vibrant and inclusive rural community by engaging with residents, collaborating with partners, and maintaining open governance. We are committed to preserving Arcadia's natural beauty, enhancing our quality of life, and building a harmonious future through thoughtful planning, sustainable services, and a shared sense of unity".*

2) Approval of the Agenda

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Gordon to approve the agenda as presented.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

3) Declaration of Conflicts of Interest

Mayor Sharpe asked if there are any conflicts to declare pertaining to the approved agenda. No conflicts were declared.

4) Approval of the Minutes

a) Regular Council Meeting – January 19, 2026

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to approve the minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on January 19, 2026.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

5) CAO Report

CAO, Karrie Bedford, gave the monthly report.

- **Creating the Foundation**
 - The next Rural Plan working group meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 3, 2026. Gemtec continues to lead this work on behalf of Capital Region Service Commission
 - Exploration of opportunities to expand childcare services throughout Arcadia.
 - Continue to explore funding available to local governments.
- **Connecting Community**
 - Council held the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 2, 2026. Next meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2026 – 7:00pm at the Jemseg Fire Department.
 - Reminder to local groups, associations and event planners to submit their event on our website calendar. Email info@arcadianb.ca with the event poster, contact information and details of your event.
 - Thank you to all who expressed interest to support various working groups. Working group members have received a poll to assist with scheduling the kick-off meetings, to begin next week.
- **Building Arcadia**
 - Welcome to Catherine D'Aoust as our new Economic and Community Development Coordinator.
 - Through regional services offered through Capital Region Service Commission, Arcadia has leveraged Ignite to support the development of Arcadia's Economic Development and Tourism Strategy. Draft strategy is being reviewed.
 - Both MERGE projects are closing the end of February. Ignite will be hosting a regional DEMO day
 - Upcoming ACTivate Sessions in February with goal of completing Tourism Map before the end of March
 - Green House Gas Inventory completed. Upcoming engagement sessions will be scheduled in the next 3 weeks.
 - EV Chargers have been installed. Grand opening ceremony to be scheduled.
- **Living in Arcadia**
 - Gagetown Medical Clinic Renovations are complete. We are actively looking for someone to take over the clinic as we work closely with the Oromocto and Area Medical Services Committee, and a few local nurse practitioner students that live and would like to work in the community.
 - Hosted our 5 volunteer Fire Departments for a preliminary session on opportunities for alignment.
 - Review of the Emergency Response Plan for Arcadia is sitting with the working group and has been discussed with the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator with NB Emergency Measures Organization (NBEMO).
 - Communication/branding is currently underway to help unite Arcadia.
 - Strawberry Gables Marketing is creating a photobank to be used by Arcadia.

6) Business Arising from The Minutes

a) **Trail Initiative**

- Received Highway Usage Permits (HUP) from Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.

- Awaiting approval letter from Public Safety

7) Recommendations from Committee of the Whole

- No recommendations brought forward at this time
- Working groups are currently being created, with kick-off meetings beginning next week

8) New Business

a) Acceptance of Financial Reports

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Mennier to accept the expenditures for the Arcadia General Operating Account for January 20, 2026 to January 31, 2026 in the amount of \$52,875.86.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

It was moved by Councillor Black and seconded by Councillor Gordon to accept the expenditures for the Arcadia Sewerage Account for January 20, 2026 to January 31, 2026 in the amount of \$722.30.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

b) Acceptance of Osachuk Subdivision Private Road Name

Capital Region Service Commission approved the Osachuk Subdivision on February 25, 2025. A requirement for the subdivision plan is to name the private road. Council has been asked to make the final decision. The developer has chosen the following street names, which have been approved by NB911:

- Tides Peak Drive
- Tides Peak Lane
- Chokecherry Lane

Be it resolved by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor Gahan-MaGee that the Council of Arcadia accept the name Chokecherry Lane for the private road on the Osachuk Subdivision.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

c) Approval of Arcadia's Future Community Fund

Mayor Sharpe read the Future Community Fund Policy in its entirety.

The purpose of the Future Community Fund is to support and celebrate graduating youth of the Village of Arcadia while encouraging continued connection to the community and fostering future workforce and community leadership development. The Fund provides financial assistance to assist graduates in their transition to employment, training, post-secondary education, or community engagement, and to encourage careers and involvement that support municipal and community services.

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Sharpe and seconded by Councillor Thomson to adopt the Future Community Fund Policy to support graduating students and encourage workforce and community leadership development.

Questions:

- **Councillor Black:** *In previous years, there was a specific amount that went to each graduate from Cambridge-Narrows Community School, whether they lived in Arcadia or not. Will this scholarship still be given out, or will all students have to apply?*
 - **CAO Bedford:** *In the 2026 budget, there was \$1,000 from each Ward allotted for scholarships, for a total of \$6,000. Students can submit an application for the Future Community Fund, indicating which stream of funding they are applying for: Arcadia Graduate Scholarship or Arcadia Community Builder Scholarship.*
 - **Councillor Black:** *We need to make sure the school is aware of this change.*
 - **Councillor Gahan-MaGee:** *The policy should be changed to include: graduates living in Arcadia who attend C-NCS, graduates who live outside of Arcadia and attend C-NCS, and graduates who live in Arcadia that attend other schools.*
 - **Councillor Gordon:** *Under eligibility requirements for the Arcadia Community Builder Scholarship, we should ask for a letter of acceptance to the post-secondary education.*
 - **Deputy Mayor Sharpe:** *Can we have this motion withdrawn until the changes have been made to the policy.*

It was moved by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor Black to table the motion until the next Regular Council meeting to make recommended adjustments to the policy.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

9) Open Session – Comments from the Public

- Ask Council to keep in mind deferral of property taxes when it comes time to discuss the budget
- For any residents that are considering running as a candidate for the upcoming municipal elections, more information can be found on the ElectionsNB website
- February 18th is the last day to appeal your Property Tax Assessment

10) Upcoming Meetings

- March 16, 2026 – Cumberland Bay Fire Hall
- April 20, 2026 – Jemseg Fire Hall

11) Closed Session

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black to move to closed session at 7:28 pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

Items discussed in closed session were as per Section 68(1)(c), (d), and (j) of the Local Governance Act.

It was moved by Councillor Mennier and seconded by Councillor Black to move out of closed session at 9:17pm.

With all in favour, the motion was carried.

12) Adjournment

*It was moved by Councillor Gordon and seconded by Councillor Black to adjourn at 9:18 pm.
With all in favour, the motion was carried.*

Clinton Sharpe

Mayor Clinton Sharpe

J. McGarity

Clerk Jessica McGarity

